

Serial No.: 10/722,893
Amendment dated 20 July 2004
Reply to Office Action mailed 20 April 2004

REMARKS

This application has been reconsidered carefully in light of the Office Action dated as mailed on 20 April 2004. A careful reconsideration of the application by the Examiner in view of the above Amendment and the following remarks is respectfully requested.

There is no additional claim fee due for the above Amendment because the total number of claims does not exceed the number of independent and dependent claims for which fees have previously been paid.

No new matter has been added to this application by the above Amendment.

Request for Telephone Interview

Applicants' undersigned attorney requests a telephone interview with the Examiner to discuss the merits of this Patent Application. The undersigned requests this interview if the amendments and arguments are not deemed sufficient to place the application in condition for allowance. If the Examiner feels the claims are not allowable for any reason, then please telephone the undersigned, Douglas H. Pauley, at 847-490-1400.

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Allowable Subject Matter

As a preliminary matter, Applicants acknowledge that the Examiner has indicated that Claims 1-20 are allowed.

Amendment to the Claims

Applicants have canceled Claim 19 in response to the Examiner's objections to the drawings, as discussed below. Claims 1-18 and 20 remain in the application.

Drawings Objections

The Examiner objected to the drawings under 37 CFR 1.83(a) for failing to show every feature of the invention specified in the claims. The Examiner alleges that the insert (Claims 1 and 11), the curved leading surface (Claims 4 and 14), the concave leading surface (Claims 5 and 15) and the pivotal blade (Claims 11 and 19) must be shown or the features canceled from the claims.

Applicants have amended Fig. 4 to include an insert 40 mounted within cutout 22. Applicants have amended the specification at page 8, lines 8-16, accordingly. These amendments are fully supported throughout the specification and in the claims, for example at page 8, lines 8-16, and in Claims 1 and 11.

Applicants have amended Fig. 7 to show that the leading surface 32 of steering element 30 can be curved, for example wherein at least a portion of leading

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surface 32 is concave. Applicants have amended the specification at page 7, lines 13-16, accordingly. These amendments are fully supported throughout the specification and in the claims, for example at page 7, lines 13-16, and in Claims 4, 5, 14 and 15.

Applicants have canceled Claim 19.

Applicants respectfully request withdrawal of this objection.

Conclusion

It is believed that the above Amendment places all pending claims in condition for allowance and notification to that effect is solicited. However, should the Examiner detect any remaining issue or have any question, the Examiner is kindly requested to contact the undersigned, preferably by telephone, in an effort to expedite examination of the application.

Respectfully submitted,



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Attachments